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## Enliven Your Book Club!



### *Reading Group Choices Expert Suggests Creative Ideas For Poetry, Author Chats and More!*

**(April, 2011, Chester, MD)** - Looking for ways to liven up your book club discussions? Barbara Drummond Mead, leading book club expert and owner of **Reading Group Choices (RGC)**, a print and online resource for book clubs, suggests that book clubs think outside the box this month by selecting some poetry, apropos of April's National Book Club Month. "Adding poetry to your book club is a great way to enliven the discussion, and it doesn't have to be humdrum or challenging—it can actually make for a surprisingly fun and engaging meeting," she says.

Members of *The Original Excelsior Library Book Club* (Excelsior, MN) shared their club's daring leap into the world of poetry with **RGC**, reporting very satisfying results from the experience. "This National Poetry Month found each of us with our favorite poem to share (some even made copies for all). It was wonderful. We had everything from a mom bringing her four-year-old daughter's poem to classics to our resident poet's original poem. We also discussed how some of us were [originally] turned off in school by poetry. "

Inviting the Poet Laureate of your state to come and speak, or, gathering your members for a field trip to go and listen to a poetry reading are two ideas for enriching experiences, suggests Mead. Organizing the opportunity for your group to interact directly with a poet regarding a poem's inspiration, intent or imagery can make for a truly memorable experience.

(more)

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**Barbara's Five Inspiring  
Ideas to Enliven Your  
Book Club**

**Literary Leap:** Have each member recite or read their favorite poem. Whether members pick Dr. Seuss, Robert Frost or John Milton -- you will learn something new about your members.

**Author Chat:** Twitter's TweetChat and Facebook's Discussion Boards now offer book clubs a unique opportunity to interact with the author. [Visit RGC](#) or [Email](#) them to see if they can schedule an author chat for your book club!

**Listen & Compare:** Choose an audiobook and discuss the dynamics of listening versus reading. (June is Audiobook month)

**Role Play:** Ask your club to come dressed as a character from the book and have members guess who (add door prizes for best interpretation).

**Finger Foods:** Serve a snack inspired by the title or setting. Example: [Something Red](#) readers might serve Rachael Ray's Red Cherries Jubilee; [The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake](#) might serve Not-So-Sad Lemon Cake!

**RGC Offers Fifty Free Audiobooks**

For adventurous book clubs looking for even more variety in their meetings, Barbara recommends book club organizers review a National Observance Calendar for some special reading months. For example, to commemorate June as Audiobook Month, **RGC** has negotiated an exclusive deal with Macmillan audio for fifty book clubs to receive free copies of the audiobook *American Heiress*, by Daisy Goodwin. "The audiobook experience adds a new dimension to the usual writing, style and plot themes in reading group discussions, allowing members to discuss listener dynamics like the narrator's character portrayal," she says. Interested book clubs should [register](#) for the contest on the **RGC** website before the April 15th deadline.

**Don't miss the first ever RGC Author Chat with  
Summer Wood, author of WRECKER  
Monday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. on the Reading  
Group Choices Facebook Discussion Page.**

**Reading Group Choices**, a recognized authority in discussible book club selections, provides a multitude of additional fun and useful resources for book clubs and reading groups on their website including their printed guide, *Reading Group Choices: Selections for Lively Book Discussions*, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> edition (\$6.95), and a free monthly e-newsletter. Mead's blog, *On the Bookcase* features one-on-one interviews with book authors, details regarding upcoming book festivals, tips for book club hosts (such as popular book club fare) and even a humorous commentary on book club etiquette. Explore their website at ([www.readinggroupchoices.com](http://www.readinggroupchoices.com)).

